



THE RALEIGH ARTS COMMISSION, established in 1977 as the official advisory body and advocate for the arts to the Raleigh City Council, proudly holds the distinction of being the first municipal arts commission created in North Carolina. Serving as the leading force to champion the arts with Raleigh citizens and their representatives, the Commission's myriad activities foster, support, and promote the arts in the Capital City.

COMMISSION MEMBERS

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**BLOCK GALLERY • Municipal Building Art Exhibitions
222 West Hargett Street • Raleigh, NC 27601
919.996.3610 • www.raleighnc.gov/arts**

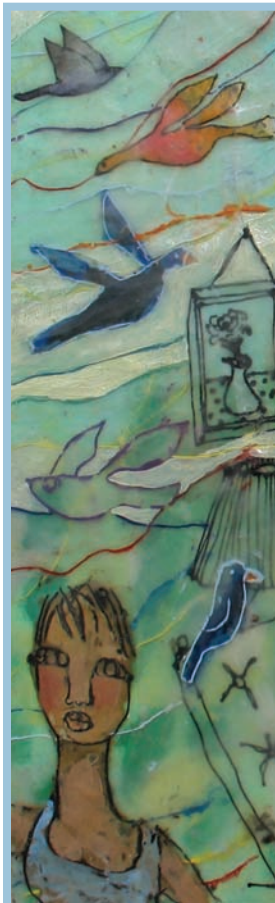
earth/
SKY



BlockGallery

block 20(10) EXHIBITING DICHOTOMIES

GENE FURR • ANNA PODRIS
cases feature artwork by BILL WALLACE
JUNE 3 - JULY 26, 2010



CURATOR'S STATEMENT

Earth/sky features the nature photography of Gene Furr, the oil paintings and encaustic works of Anna Podris, and the woodwork of Bill Wallace. Drawing inspiration from the natural world, Furr, Podris, and Wallace explore its beauty and mystery through their strikingly different media. Furr captures with his photographs the appreciation and reverence he feels towards the natural world and its inhabitants—emotions that he hopes to evoke as well in viewers. Utilizing encaustics and oil paints, Podris creates layered, colorful works that take a whimsical spin on the natural world. Using wood as his medium to create vessels, carvings, and pedestals, Wallace contemplates a tree's ability to unify earth and sky. In these featured works, the two disparate realms of earth and sky transform through careful observations into fantastical imaginations and quiet reverences.

Hannah Costner, *Block Gallery Coordinator*

To hear artists' comments on their work, call:

Gene Furr: 919.996.5391

Anna Podris: 919.996.5392

Bill Wallace: 919.996.5393

Image details: Gene Furr, *A Solitude Moment* (left); and Anna Podris, *Green Interior with Birds* (right).



BlockGallery

Connecting local artists to community through
ongoing exhibitions and public outreach since 1984.

earth/ SKY

GENE FURR • ANNA PODRIS

cases feature artwork by BILL WALLACE

JUNE 3 - JULY 26, 2010

OPENING RECEPTION:

Thursday, June 3, 5 - 7 p.m.

featuring dance improvisations by
Even Exchange Dance Theater

GENE FURR

As a photographer, I have been greatly impressed with the unique character of nature, the wildlife and their way of life. But at the same time, I am disturbed by the rapid changes that I have seen taking place. I realize that it is only a matter of time before much of the uniqueness will vanish. I feel a strong desire and obligation, as a photographer and native North Carolinian, to record nature and wildlife. I also realize that, with increased commercialism, the landscapes will change and become a part of the past. I have attempted to show the beauty of nature around us and of the wildlife, devoting much of my time to capturing their beauty to treasure, enjoy, and protect.



Gene Furr, a native North Carolinian from Concord, studied photography at Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, CA. He is the author of *IMAGES: The Outer Banks*, published in 1983 and served as the Chief Photographer for the *Raleigh News & Observer* for 30 years. Professional activities have included President and Vice President of the North Carolina Press Association; part-time Photojournalism Instructor at UNC at Chapel Hill; and Chairman of Southern Short Course in News Photography.

Furr has received numerous awards for his photography, including North Carolina Press Photographer of the Year, Southern Photographer of the Year (twice), and World Press Award. In 2008, The Southern Short Course in News Photography presented Gene Furr its inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award. Furr currently lives in Raleigh.

GENE FURR • afurr9@nc.rr.com • http://www.cnpa.org/show_gallery.php?order=name&id=727®ion=all



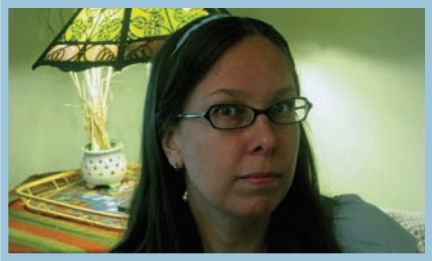
title	date of work	medium: digital photography	dimensions (inches)
<i>Dreams of Destiny: Shipwreck at South Nags Head</i>	1973		19 × 25
<i>The Journey of Life: Jelly Fish</i>	2005		20 × 20
<i>Picture Perfect: Purple Coneflowers & Daisies</i>	2005		16 × 20
<i>A Splash of Color: Yellow Coneflowers</i>	2005		16 × 20
<i>Autumn's Melody: Lower Falls Hanging Rock St. Park</i>	2006		31 × 36
<i>Rhapsody in Paradise: White Coneflower</i>	2006		16 × 20
<i>A Solitude Moment: Brown Pelican Waiting for the Fishing Fleet to Return</i>	2006		16 × 20
<i>Unforgettable: Brown Tree Frog</i>	2006		14 × 18
<i>Deadly Reflection: America Alligator Reflection</i>	2007		16 × 20
<i>Essence of Life: Egrets Building Nest</i>	2007		18 × 20
<i>Freedom of Flight: Ring-billed Gulls in Flight</i>	2007		16 × 20
<i>Irresistible: Pink Waterlily</i>	2007		22 × 28
<i>Irresistibly: Great Egret Grooming</i>	2007		15 × 39
<i>Majestic: Brown Pelican in Flight</i>	2007		16 × 25
<i>The Nearness of You: Great Egret Returning to Feed Chick</i>	2007		24 × 29
<i>Reflection of Grace and Beauty: Great Blue Heron in Flight</i>	2008		16 × 20
<i>The Search: Gray Fox Searching for Prey</i>	2008		16 × 20
<i>Magnificent: Great Egret in Flight</i>	2009		16 × 20
<i>Wanderer: Chicken Turtle</i>	2009		16 × 20
<i>Trials and Tribulations: Egrets Fighting</i>	2010		19 × 21

NOTE: These framed pieces are not for sale, but individual prints can be purchased through Gene Furr.

Images: *The Nearness of You*, opposite page; *The Journey of Life*, above.

ANNA PODRIS

I paint to show windows into my imagined cityscapes and whimsical natural worlds. I love being outside in nature because of the quiet healing energy in plants. I love architecture in older cities because of the attention to detail in the design and flourishes that we don't take the time for in contemporary buildings. People and animals also appear from time to time in my work. I paint cats, dogs, horses, deer and other forest creatures. I like how animals can communicate with their eyes (people as well). I think of each painting as a complete world. To me, the act of painting is meditative and sublime and I dedicate myself to the transcendental value of art.



Anna Podris graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design with a B.F.A. in painting. Since then, she has been a professional full-time painter showing work around the area and beyond. Additionally, she has taught art classes to both children and adults. Podris' art has appeared on the City of Raleigh buses through the Art-On-The-Move program, and she has had exhibitions in Vail, CO; Miami, FL; and Alexandria, VA. She had her first solo show in New York City at the Gitana Rosa Gallery in Brooklyn.

A resident of Raleigh, Podris currently shares Studio 220 at Artspace with her husband and fellow artist, Keith Norval. They recently had their first child, Ingrid.

ANNA PODRIS • annapodris@earthlink.net • www.annapodris.com



title	date of work	medium	dimensions (inches)	price
<i>Field's Edge</i>	2008	encaustic on panel	8 × 10	\$250
<i>Green Interior with Birds</i>	2008	encaustic on panel	12 × 12	\$350
<i>The Morning After the Rainstorm</i>	2009	encaustic and collage on 3 panels	24 × 54	\$1500
<i>The Road to Nowhere</i>	2009	encaustic and collage on 4 panels	6 × 32	\$375
<i>Shadow Birds</i>	2009	oil on canvas	24 × 30	\$700
<i>Bug Watching on a Spring Day</i>	2010	encaustic and collage on panel	8 × 8	\$200
<i>Hidden Rabbit</i>	2010	oil on canvas	36 × 24	\$1000
<i>The King and the Queen</i>	2010	encaustic and collage on 3 panels	18 × 60	\$1200
<i>Little Pond in the Sky</i>	2010	encaustic and oil on panel	34 × 30	\$900
<i>Over in the Meadow</i>	2010	encaustic and collage on panel	12 × 16	\$350
<i>The Shapes Clouds Make</i>	2010	encaustic and mixed media on panel	20 × 16	\$500

Images: *Bug Watching on a Spring Day*, opposite page; *Little Pond in the Sky*, above.

BILL WALLACE

2nd floor cases
newlightfarm@aol.com

Trees act as a connection between earth and sky. They add to the color, texture, shape, and beauty of the landscape. Much of my work is taken directly from a log or a piece of wood that I have found or reclaimed. This usually means that I'll start working on the piece while it still contains moisture, and it has to be dried while I'm working with it, before it can be finished. This process takes several months and allows me flexibility in the way I create my work.



Bill Wallace's interest in woodworking started as a youngster, when, with the help of his dad, he built a Soap Box Derby car. Earning a B.A. in Economics, after graduation, Wallace did custom cabinet work before forming New Light Wood Works in 1976. Selected exhibitions include "Hang It Up" at the Gregg Museum (NCSU), the Fine Arts League of Cary 15th Annual Juried Art Exhibition, and the 2010 North Carolina Artists' Exhibition. Living on a small farm in Wake County has enabled him to keep in close contact with the natural world, which continues to be a major source of inspiration for his work.

Images: *Cherry Spiral* (top) and *Blue Flame*.

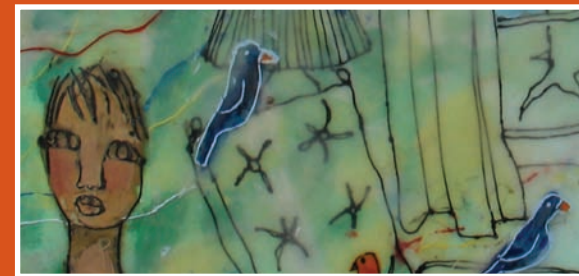
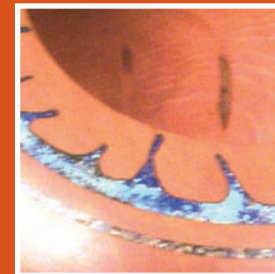


Image Details: top row - Anna Podris, *Little Pond in the Sky*; Anna Podris, *Green Interior with Birds*; Bill Wallace, *Blue Flame*; Gene Furr, *The Journey of Life*; middle row - Gene Furr, *The Nearness of You*; Gene Furr, *A Solitude Moment*; Anna Podris, *Green Interior with Birds*; bottom row - Bill Wallace, *Cherry Spiral*.

block gallery 20(10) EXHIBITING DICHOTOMIES

dual/focus, February 4 - March 22, 2010

Artists: Jason Arthurs, Gabriella Corter, Mary Shannon Johnstone, Judy Jones, Mary Kay Kennedy, Julie Niskanen, Alison Overton, Kristianne Ripple, Susan Soper. Cases feature art by Tricia McKellar.

Guest Curators: Rachel Berry + Sarah Powers

Opening reception featuring performance by Starmount: Thursday, February 4, 5-7 p.m.

home/journeys, April 8 - May 24, 2010

Artists: Kathy Brancato, Kenneth Eugene Peters. Cases feature art by Mikel Robinson.

Opening reception featuring literary reading by Maureen Sherbondy: Thursday, April 8, 5-7 p.m.

earth/sky, June 3 - July 26, 2010

Artists: Gene Furr, Anna Podris. Cases feature art by Bill Wallace.

Opening reception featuring dance improvisations by Even Exchange Dance Theater: Thursday, June 3, 5-7 p.m.

over/under, August 5 - September 20, 2010

Artists: Eduardo Lapetina, Kristan Five Skinner. Cases feature art by Elizabeth Thabet.

Opening reception featuring literary reading by Zelda Lockhart: Thursday, August 5, 5-7 p.m.

rew/ffwd (rewind/fast forward), September 30 - November 22, 2010

Artists: Georges Le Chevallier, Brian Gonzales, Garrett Scales. Cases feature a display by NCSU Textile and Apparel Technology and Management students.

Opening reception featuring live music: Thursday, September 30, 5-7 p.m.

The 8th National Arts Program Exhibition, December 2, 2010 - January 17, 2011

Celebrating artwork by City of Raleigh and Wake County employees and their families, co-sponsored by the Raleigh Arts Commission and the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County.

Opening reception featuring bluegrass music: Thursday, December 2, 5-7 p.m.

EVEN EXCHANGE DANCE THEATER

www.evenexchange.com



Even Exchange Dance Theater (EEDT) is dedicated to the creation of modern dance through collaboration. Since 1997, EEDT has been involving audiences in modern dance through performances, school programming, and community partnerships. This community work offers platforms for choreographers to present work and programs for people of all backgrounds. Our partners have included: local leaders, veterans, inmates, patients, and at-risk youth. In 2002, EEDT received the Raleigh Medal of Arts Award and the Triangle Arts Access Award. EEDT is honored to present structured improvisation based on Piedmont Laureate Zelda Lockhart's work at the Block Gallery's *earth/sky* exhibition.

ARTS COMMISSION STAFF

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Hannah Costner*

Block Gallery Coordinator

Marie Smith*

Database Assistant

*Part-time

BLOCK GALLERY

For 26 years, the Block Gallery has served as a pivotal exhibition space in the City of Raleigh, connecting local artists to community through ongoing exhibitions and public outreach. Managed by the Raleigh Arts Commission, the gallery was dedicated in 2006 to honor community leader Miriam Preston Block. Located in downtown Raleigh's municipal building at 222 West Hargett Street, the gallery is open 8:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m., Monday through Friday (closed on city holidays).

Gallery information, dates and times are subject to change.